

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB-6025 1 January 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU:

Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT:

Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--December 1986

I. GENERAL

State Department has approved a new wage scale for Embassy FBN's which grants a 10 percent salary increase. The new salaries are retroactively effective on 12 October 1986. A copy of the new scale has been pouched to headquarters. A new leave plan based on Ivorian law and local custom which would significantly increase FSN leave benefits remains under study by State Department's foreign national personnel component in Washington.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. In an otherwise slow month for the bureau, fighting in northern Chad continued to intensify, with Ndjamena accusing Libya of using napalm and toxic gas in a December 11 attack on Bardai. There were also reports of fighting in Zouar, Fada and the mountainous Tibesti area in general. Amidst conflicting reports of who controls what, Ndjamena now has confirmed that Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) troops are in the north fighting along-side troops loyal to former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddi. The French are known to have dropped supplies to the anti-Libyan forces at least once, on the 17th, and while Libya continues to deny they even have troops in Chad, Ndjamena is claiming the Libyans are suffering heavy casualties and that some Soviet experts have now joined them. As of 23 December, foreign journalists have been required to submit their reports to the Chad Information Ministry for approval. The Bureau's reception of Ndjamena remains erratic while the clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio is now only rarely monitorable.
- 2. The bureau's coverage of AFP English and AFP French (both high frequency and landline) was interrupted from 11-18 December due to work stoppages by AFP personnel. On several evenings both before and after the strike action the AFP landline carried virtually nothing from the time the bureau closed at 2230 gmt until we reopened at 0600 gmt.

B. Communications

Embassy TCU reported that on 4 December the bureau's communications circuit was switched to a CPU 9.6 lease line operation. This lease is being used as a fallback method of communications when the primary carrier system fails. In TCU's estimation, we should not have the prolonged outages we experienced during the summer due to satellite tracking problems.

C. Technical

- 1. The bureau engineer and technician began installation of security alarm systems in the five staff residences. The alarm systems were received from headquarters on 2 December.
- 2. IBM XT peripherals were shipped to headquarters on 11 December. A damaged XT computer and hard disk were shipped last August. ADD has ordered replacement equipment for priority delivery to the bureau.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

l. Chief monitor retired on 19 December with over 22 years of dedicated service to FBIS, first at Kaduna Bureau and later here at Abidjan. He was presented the FBIS Career Medal and a letter from	STAT
the Director in recognition of his outstanding service. returned to his home in Lome, Togo on 21 December.	STAT
2. Part-time monitor/translator EOD'd on 21 December.	STAT
3. Senior monitor received a PSI during the month.	STAT
4. wife of Deputy Chief returned to post on 13 December after giving birth to 1 November in Graz, Austria.	STAT STAT

IV. VISITS

Dr. Ferguson Reid, the Regional Medical Officer recently assigned to post, visited the bureau on the 17th.

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bureau local and American staff and their families celebrated the holiday season at a Christmas party held at the bureau chief's house on 13

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pared by the bureau personnel who ate, d The retirement of Chief Monitor occasion with gifts and well-wishes from	rank and danced until the wee hours. was also acknowledged on this	STAT

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

Abidjan Bureau Production Report for DECEMBER 1986

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